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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

9950-0002

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

Not Yet Assigned

09/402273

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/EP98/02138

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

April 3, 1998 (04/03/98)

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

April 5, 1997 (04/05/97)

TITLE OF INVENTION

ALLERGEN FORMULATION

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Jorj Terry ULRICH and Alan Worland WHEELER

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information.

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. (and Form PTO-1449)
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information: Check in the amount of \$1,048.00
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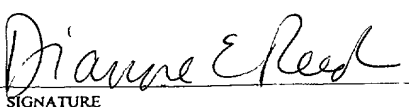
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U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/402273		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP98/02138		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 9950-0002	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$970.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$840.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$760.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$670.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$96.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
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CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	12 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$ 0.00	
Independent claims	4 - 3 =	1	X \$78.00	\$ 78.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			0 + \$260.00	\$ 0.00	
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TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 1,048.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 0.00	
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SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO Dianne E. REED Reed & Associates 3282 Alpine Road Portola Valley, California 94028 U.S.					
				 SIGNATURE	
				Dianne E. Reed NAME	
				31,292 REGISTRATION NUMBER	

09/402273

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Attorney Docket No. 9950-0002

PATENT

Date of Deposit: 01 October 1999

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:
ULRICH et al.

U.S. Serial No.: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

U.S. Filing Date: Herewith

Examiner: Unassigned

International Application No.: PCT/EP98/02138

International Filing Date: 03 April 1998

Title: ALLERGEN FORMULATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the patent application identified above. Prior to examination, please enter the amendments indicated below.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately above line 3, please insert the heading:

--Technical Field--.

On page 1, between lines 4 and 5, please insert the heading:

--Background of the Invention--.

On page 1, at line 20, following "GB-A-1 377 074", please insert -- , corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 3,792,159, --.

On page 1, at line 22, following "GB-A-1 492 973", please insert -- , corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 4,070,455, --.

On page 1, at line 23, change "has been" to --is--.

On page 1, at line 27, please replace "GB 2220211 (Ribi)" with --GB-A-2 220 211, corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 4,912,094 and assigned to Ribi Immunochem. Res. ("Ribi")--.

On page 1, at line 30, please replace "Application No. 92/116556" with --Publication No. WO 92/16556--.

On page 1, between lines 31 and 32, please insert the heading:

--Summary of the Invention--.

On page 2, at line 19, please replace "(optionally)" with --optionally--.

On page 2, between lines 24 and 25, i.e., just prior to the paragraph beginning "Typically, the...", please insert the heading:

--Detailed Description of the Invention--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4 and 5 without prejudice.

Also add the following new claims:

--6. (New) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the allergen is coated with the tyrosine.

7. (New) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the allergen is adsorbed onto the tyrosine.

8. (New) A composition according to claim 2, wherein the allergen is coated with and adsorbed onto the tyrosine.

9. (New) A method according to claim 3, wherein the tyrosine, the optionally modified allergen, and the 3-DPML are administered in a single pharmaceutical composition.

10. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the allergen is coated with and/or adsorbed onto the tyrosine.

11. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the allergen is adsorbed onto the tyrosine.

12. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the allergen is coated with and adsorbed onto the tyrosine.

13. (New) A process for preparing an allergen formulation, comprising: (a) mixing an aqueous solution of an allergen with a solution of tyrosine in a strong aqueous acid; (b) neutralizing the mixture of solutions, thereby co-precipitating tyrosine and the allergen; (c) mixing the product of step (b) with 3-DMPL; and optionally (d) adding a physiologically acceptable carrier.

14. (New) A process for preparing an allergen formulation, comprising: (a) modifying an allergen by reaction with a cross-linking agent, to provide a modified allergen; (b) mixing an aqueous solution of the modified allergen with a solution of tyrosine in a strong aqueous acid; (c) neutralizing the mixture of solutions, thereby co-precipitating tyrosine and the modified allergen; (d) mixing the product of step (c) with 3-DMPL; and optionally (e) adding a physiologically acceptable carrier.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended above in order to (1) insert headings to identify different sections of the patent application, (2) identify U.S. counterparts of cited GB patents, (3) correct a typographical error vis-à-vis PCT Publication No. WO 92/16556, and (4) correct minor informalities. The amendments to the specification add no new matter into the disclosure.

In addition, the claims have been amended above in order to provide clarification and conform the claim language to that normally used in U.S. practice. All claims find support throughout the disclosure, and are in fact drawn from and directly supported by the original claims. Thus, no new matter has been added.

With the above amendments, claims 4 and 5 have been canceled and claims 6-14 have been added. Thus, claims 1-3 and 6-14 are now pending.

The Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned attorney at (650)851-8501 with any questions concerning this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

10/1/99
Date

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ALLERGEN FORMULATION

This invention relates to novel formulations for use in desensitisation therapy of allergy sufferers.

5 It is known that desensitisation therapy results in a changed immunological response specific for the allergens administered. Such changes are considered to be responsible for the beneficial effects of the treatment and amelioration of the symptoms of allergy.

The immunological changes responsible for benefit are not entirely understood. Although a raised allergen specific IgG antibody response is considered to be a desirable
10 outcome of therapy, it is now believed that certain changes in the allergen specific T cell (T lymphocyte) response are more important.

Two subclasses of T cell, TH1-like and TH2-like interact with one another via various messenger molecules. In an allergic subject it appears that there is a greater allergen specific TH2 than a TH1 activity. This can lead to a high allergen specific IgE antibody
15 level and greater eosinophil activity. These are two important components of the allergic syndrome.

A change in the above situation to one where there is greater allergen specific TH1 rather than TH2 activity is thought to be an important component of immunotherapy leading to a clinical benefit.

20 GB-A-1 377 074 describes a process for preparing coprecipitates of tyrosine having an allergen dispersed therein.

GB-A-1 492 973 describes a process for preparing coprecipitates of tyrosine having a modified allergen dispersed therein. The allergen has been modified by treatment with an agent, such as glutaraldehyde, which causes intra-molecular cross-linking and reduces the
25 allergenicity of the product relative to the unmodified allergen.

3 De-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A (hereinafter 3-DMPL or "MPL") is known from GB 2220211 (Ribi). Chemically it is a mixture of 3 De-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A with 4, 5 or 6 acylated chains and is manufactured by Ribi Immunochem Montana. A preferred form of 3 De-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A is disclosed in International
30 Patent Application No. 92/116556. 3-DMPL is an example of a substance that can enhance the TH1 over TH2 directing properties of administered allergens.

According to the present invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising tyrosine, an optionally modified allergen, and 3-DMPL. Typically, the allergen is coated with and /or adsorbed onto tyrosine, for example by co-precipitation or mixing.

35 The 3-DMPL can be mixed with the other components of the composition prior to administration. Alternatively it can be formulated together with the other components during manufacture of the product. Alternatively, it can be administered at a different site or time

than the other components. Administration can be by a number of routes including parenteral and enteral.

A further aspect of the invention thus provides a method of treating a patient who is susceptible to allergy, which method comprises administering to the said patient an effective
5 amount of tyrosine, an optionally modified allergen, and 3-DMPL.

A further aspect of the invention provides use of tyrosine, an optionally modified allergen, and 3-DMPL, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the prevention or treatment of allergy.

The allergen may be derived from any allergy causing substance, such as a pollen
10 (e.g. ragweed or birch pollen), food, insect venom, mould, animal fur, or house dust mite (*D. farinae* or *D. pteronyssinus*). As used herein, "allergen" includes a mixture of allergens which may be from a single source or more than one source. The term "allergen" also includes peptides containing one or more epitopes of an allergen, such as allergen fragments, prepared by total synthesis, by enzymatic degradation of allergens, or by other means.

15 The allergen is optionally modified by reaction with a cross-linking agent such as a dialdehyde, more particularly glutaraldehyde.

A further aspect of the invention provides a process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition in accordance with the invention, which process comprises (a) (optionally) modifying an allergen by reaction with a cross-linking agent, (b) mixing an
20 aqueous solution of the optionally modified allergen with a solution of tyrosine in a strong aqueous acid, (c) neutralising the mixture of solutions, thereby co-precipitating tyrosine and modified allergen, (d) mixing the product with 3-DMPL, and (e) optionally, adding a physiologically acceptable carrier.

Suitable physiologically acceptable carriers include phenol-saline and sterile water.
25 Typically, the allergen is modified by treatment with a dialdehyde such as glutaraldehyde, in aqueous solution at a pH of between 5 and 10, typically about 7, and a temperature of between 0 and 100 °C, more usually between 4 and 37 °C, for up to 10 hours, for example about two hours at room temperature. The ratio of allergen to glutaraldehyde is typically in the range 50:1 to 2:1, for example about 10:1.

30 The intermediate can be freeze dried or used in the next stage.

A solution of the modified allergen, typically at pH 7 ± 1 , obtained either as the reaction mixture from the cross-linking process or from the solvation of a solid, is then mixed with a solution of tyrosine in a strong aqueous acid. The strong acid is usually an inorganic acid, preferably hydrochloric acid. The solution of allergen used in this step
35 typically contains between 0.1 µg/ml and 1000 µg/ml allergen protein, for example about 400 µg/ml. The ratio of allergen: tyrosine in the mixture is typically in the range $1:4 \times 10^5$ to $1:1 \times 10^2$ w/w.

The resulting mixture of solutions of allergen and tyrosine is neutralised. By neutralisation is meant an adjustment of pH to a value within the range 4.0 to 7.5. It is important that, at no time, or at least at no prolonged time, during the neutralisation does the pH of the solution rise appreciably above 7.5. This condition can be met by vigorous stirring of the solution and by the use only of the required amount of base, if desired. Various buffering agents can usefully be added to the solutions of allergen to assist in pH control during the mixing and neutralising stages.

A particularly useful method of carrying out the neutralisation is for separate streams of the solution of tyrosine in acid and the neutralising base to be run into the solution of allergen. The rates of flow of the added solutions are controlled by pH-state, that is by equipment which regulates the flow of one or both of the solutions so that the pH of the reaction mixture remains substantially constant at a predetermined level. We have found that optimum results are usually obtained by pH control within the range 6.5 to 7.5 though the precise pH may vary according to the nature of the allergen.

The result of the neutralisation is the immediate precipitation of the tyrosine, within and/or upon which the solution of allergen is occluded and/or adsorbed. After the precipitation the mixture is either washed immediately or allowed to stand for a period of from a few hours to a day or two prior to washing.

The resulting precipitate may be removed from the solution by centrifugation or filtration and washed, e.g. with phenol-saline, before being resuspended in a physiologically-acceptable carrier such as phenol-saline, or sterile water, to produce an injectable composition suitable for use in desensitisation therapy in combination with 3-DMPL.

MPL which has been dissolved by the method described in Preparation 3 below or by sonication can be diluted by various means prior to its addition to tyrosine adsorbates of allergens or modified allergens. The preparation of MPL is initially made at a concentration of typically between 0.5mg per ml and 4 mg per ml, for example 1 mg per ml. It can then be diluted to a concentration of between 500 µg per ml and 20 µg per ml, preferably about 100 µg per ml. This dilution can be made in pure water, or in an aqueous glycerol solution containing between 1% and 4 %, preferably 2 %, glycerol. Such dilutions can then be added to a suspension of the tyrosine adsorbate prepared as described above. For convenience, the concentration of the MPL solution and the tyrosine adsorbate suspension respectively may be selected such that approximately equal volumes of each are admixed to obtain the final product for injection. A typical final product contains about 100µg per ml of allergen and about 250µg per ml of MPL.

The following Example illustrates the present invention:

Preparation 1

5 A neutral solution of approximately 0.5 mg/ml grass pollen extract which had been partially purified by dialysis or fractionation was chemically modified by the addition of an equal volume of 0.25% w/v glutaraldehyde and the mixture stirred for approximately 2 hours at room temperature. To the above mixture was added phosphate buffer solution at a pH of 7
10 ± 1 . The allergen solution was co-precipitated with tyrosine by the simultaneous addition of one volume of L-tyrosine in HCl (prepared by dissolving 24g L-tyrosine to 100ml with 3.8M HCl) and one volume of 3.2M NaOH, to four volumes of allergen solution, with vigorous agitation. The suspension so formed was centrifuged, washed repeatedly with buffered saline to remove contaminants and resuspended to the original volume in buffered saline pH6 ± 1 .

15 3-DMPL suitable for coadministration with the above formulation was prepared as described in Preparation 3 below.

Preparation 2

20 Eight mg of ovalbumin (XOA) were dissolved by mixing in 20ml of EVANS solution. Next 6.9ml of phosphate buffer were added with mixing. The solution was placed in a 100ml beaker containing a magnetic stir bar. While mixing using a magnetic stirrer, 6.9ml of 3.2N NaOH and 6.9ml of 3.8N HCL containing 24% W/V-tyrosine were added simultaneously, dropwise, over a period of 5 min. to form a precipitate. The mixture was
25 allowed to stir for an additional 5 min. and then transferred to a 50ml centrifuge tube and centrifuged for 10 min. at 2500 rpm. After centrifugation the supernatant was decanted and the pelleted precipitate resuspended in 40ml of phosphate buffer. The mixture was centrifuged for 5 min. at 2500 rpm. After centrifugation the supernatant was decanted and the precipitate resuspended in 40ml of phosphate buffer. The mixture was centrifuged for 5
30 min. at 2500 rpm. After centrifugation the supernatant was decanted and the pelleted precipitate resuspended in 40ml of phosphate buffer saline, pH7.2, containing 0.4% V/V glycerol and 0.01% W/V thimerosal as a preservative. The final product contained approximately 40mg/ml of tyrosine adsorbate. Assuming 100% binding of the XOA to the tyrosine adsorbate the XAO was at 200 μ g/ml in the final product. The XOA-tyrosine
35 adsorbate was stored at 4°C until needed.

Preparation 3

A 4 mg/ml solution of 1,2-dipalmitoyl-SN-glycero-3-phospho choline (DPPC) in absolute ethanol was prepared. For each 1.0mg of MPL®-TEA salt to be solubilized, 27µl of DPPC were added to dissolve the MPL®. The ethanol was removed by blowing a stream of N₂ gently into the vial. Next 1.0ml of pyrogen-free water for injection was added for each mg of MPL® in the dried MPL® /DPPC mixture. The solution was sonicated in a bath sonicator at 60-70°C until clear. The MPL®/DPPC solution was then filter sterilized by filtration through a SFCA 290-4520 Nalgene 0.2µm filter. The MPL®/DPPC solution was aseptically dispensed at 1.0mg/ml into depyrogenated vials, labelled MPL®-AF, and stored at 4°C.

Biological activity

TH1 inducing activity in mice can be equated with the production of IgG2a and IgG2b antibodies and the TH2 inducing activity with the production of IgG1 antibodies and IgE antibodies.

Therefore, as an example, an experiment was carried out in mice to demonstrate the profiles of the allergen specific antibodies to an exemplar allergen ovalbumen (XOA) which is a well-known food allergen derived from chicken eggs. It was confirmed that a formulation consisting of MPL + XOA+tyrosine stimulated a more advantageous antibody profile than MPL + XOA, XOA+tyrosine or XOA alone.

Groups of 8 BALB/c female mice, 6-8 weeks of age, were injected subcutaneously in the inguinal area with 0.2ml of one of the following vaccines:

XOA+Tyrosine: The XOA tyrosine adsorbate prepared in Preparation 2 above was diluted with an equal volume of phosphate buffered saline within 30 min. prior to injection.

XOA+Tyrosine+MPL: The XOA tyrosine adsorbate prepared in Preparation 2 above was diluted with an equal volume of MPL®-AF at 500µg/ml in phosphate buffered saline within 30 min. prior to injection.

XOA+MPL: XOA was dissolved in phosphate buffered saline at 200µg/ml and diluted with an equal volume of MPL®-AF at 500µg/ml in phosphate buffered saline within 30 min. prior to injection.

XOA Alone: XOA was dissolved at 200µg/ml in phosphate buffered saline and diluted with an equal volume of phosphate buffered saline.

Twenty-one days later the four groups of mice were boosted with 0.2ml of freshly prepared vaccines. Fourteen days following the booster the mice were bled and the sera separated and stored at -70°C until assay.

The sera were assayed by conventional ELISA technique using horseradish conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG₁, IgG_{2a}, and IgG_{2b} antibodies purchased from Southern Biotechnology, Inc. (Birmingham, AL) and used according to the manufacturer's instruction. The IgG₁, IgG_{2a}, and IgG_{2b} titers represent the reciprocal serum dilution giving a reading of >0.1 OD units at A₄₉₀. The serum IgE levels were measured using an anti-IgE capture ELISA followed by the use of a biotinylated ovalbumin probe. Binding was measured following the addition of a horseradish conjugated streptavidin preparation. The results are reported as OD units at A₄₉₀.

RESULTS

Formulation	IgG ₁ titre	IgG _{2a} titre	IgG _{2b} titre	IgE OD at 1/10 Diltn
XOA + Tyrosine	102400	100	200	0.213
XOA + Tyrosine + MPL	409600	102400	102400	0.104
XOA + MPL	102400	200	400	0.218
XOA alone	6400	<100	<100	0.235
Normal Mouse Serum Values	<100	<100	<100	0.095

Of particular importance is the fact that the combination of allergen + tyrosine + MPL induces less allergen specific IgE antibody than the other combinations. Furthermore, the ratio of IgG_{2a} or IgG_{2b} to IgG₁ antibodies is greater and consistent with the highest levels of the two former antibody isotypes seen in the experiment in the mice given allergen+tyrosine+MPL than in any other group of mice. This is indicative of a better ratio of TH1 cell induction over TH2 cell induction in this group compared with that induced in the other groups of mice.

Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising tyrosine, an optionally modified allergen,
5 and 3-DMPL.
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the allergen is coated with and /or adsorbed onto tyrosine.
- 10 3. A method of treating a patient who is susceptible to allergy, which method comprises administering to the said patient an effective amount of tyrosine, an optionally modified allergen, and 3-DMPL.
- 15 4. Use of tyrosine, an optionally modified allergen, and 3-DMPL, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the prevention or treatment of allergy.
- 20 5. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or 2, which process comprises (a) (optionally) modifying an allergen by reaction with a cross-linking agent, (b) mixing an aqueous solution of the optionally modified allergen with a solution of tyrosine in a strong aqueous acid, (c) neutralising the mixture of solutions, thereby co-precipitating tyrosine and modified allergen, (d) mixing the product with 3-DMPL, and (e) optionally, adding a physiologically acceptable carrier.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)	Attorney Docket Number	9950-0002
	First Named Inventor	ULRICH, Jorj Terry
	COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
	Application Number	09/402,273
	Filing Date	
	Group Art Unit	
<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing	OR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)
	Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ALLERGEN FORMULATION

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

☐ is attached hereto
OR

☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 04/03/1998 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number PCT/EP98/02138 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
9706957.9	United Kingdom	April 5, 1997 (04/05/1997)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

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Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)
PCT/EP98/02138	April 3, 1998 (04/03/98)	

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As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

☐ Customer Number

OR

☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

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Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
REED, Dianne E.	31,292	FOX, James A.	38,455
HARTRUM, J. Elin	43,663	WU, Louis L.	44,413
WILSON, Mark A.	43,275		

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label OR ☒ Correspondence address below

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any])		Family Name or Surname	
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Post Office Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country
			US

☒ Additional inventors are being named on the 1 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto

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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**
Supplemental Sheet
Page 1 of 1**Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:**☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

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